



ST. MARK'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Events for this week

Mid-week devotional
"A Word of Hope" emailed
every Wednesday @ 7 am

St. Mark's Prayer Fellowship
every Wednesday @ 6:30 pm

Our Regular Sunday Service
@ 11am, will be Live-streamed
through YouTube and Zoom

Christmas Eve Service (24.12.2021)
@ 7 pm, will be Live-streamed
through YouTube and Zoom

New Year's Eve Service (31.12.2021)
@ 7 pm, will be Live-streamed
through YouTube and Zoom

Inside this issue:

Christmas Message 2021	1-2
50th Anniversary celebrations Plans & Projections	3-4
Wilf, A Good & Faithful Servant	5
Technological Installations Digital Media Ministry	6
Reaching Malton for Christ	7
St. Mark's YouTube Channel	8
St. Mark's Helpers	9
Thank you note	10

Dear St. Mark's Church Family,

Christmas Message 2021

In the midst of a global pandemic, widespread flooding in British Columbia, migrants and refugees crying out for help and refuge, tornados turning cities into piles of rubble, JESUS COMES! In the midst of glorious uncertainties as another coronavirus variant blazes across the world; amid churches, businesses, school boards, Federal, Provincial and local Governments grappling with serious decisions, JESUS COMES! There are many waiting for breakthrough surgeries, other experiencing changes in their health status and still many are soldiering through in the midst of pain. In the wake of ongoing confirmation of thousands of unmarked graves at former Residential School sites, growing calls for racial justice, and a global climate crisis Jesus comes among us.

It is Advent, a time of preparation, a time for making space in our lives as we figure out what God coming to live with us means in each of our lives. As a church we gather to welcome Jesus and to celebrate familiar traditions and practices that create a rich, lovingly crafted atmosphere in each heart which will spread to each home and everywhere we dwell as God's children. Amidst all that is going on, Christmas is the "most wonderful time of the year!" In all the

excitement mixed with anxiety brought on by the pandemic, it's easy to forget that Christmas is also a time when we have the unique opportunity to extend welcome and embrace to many around us. As Jesus comes may we rekindle that welcome and spiritual embrace to those we meet.



Everywhere the atmosphere is punctuated music, joy, and laughter as we remember and celebrate

with joy the birth of Jesus. Something that was not important in human eyes now becomes most important in the eyes of God: the long-promised Messiah entered a world permeated with uncertainty and anxiety, political uneasiness, injustices, and resistance to Israel's long-awaited Saviour, the Prince of Peace.

As life has changed for many in these times, we are hard pressed to keep the focus on Jesus who enters every heart with the promise of abundant life. We cannot lose sight of our Christian



St. Mark's Presbyterian Church

ST. MARK'S



OUT OF MANY NATIONS,
WE ARE ONE FAMILY

heritage and Divine destiny as it is what draws us into celebration of the four hallmarks of advent, hope, joy, peace, and love. Christmas for us speaks of the forging of a unity rooted in the message of Jesus Christ and His grace for all humanity. As we live with all the virtues of Jesus it is also in a world where many face injustice and the fear of it. There is racial and gender inequality that pervades the world and are a grave concern in many contexts as many are raising their voices in protest of these ills. The seemingly out of control nature of the world engender a sense of hopelessness in many and can lead to despair. Yet in all of this JESUS COMES!



Christ comes again to bring about justice for His world, and we are challenged to welcome and celebrate in a meaningful way the Mystery of the Word-made-flesh, our Emmanuel, God-with-us.

Jesus Christ comes as a Light shining in our darkness; He comes as Messiah, Master, Teacher, Creator, and Friend. He comes as Bridegroom, Savior, Lord, Mediator, and Redeemer with the grace and mercy of God for all humanity. Christ comes as Beloved, Our blessed hope, and as The Good Shepherd, to break down the walls of division and doubt. Christ comes as Wonderful Counselor and Prince of peace to lift up those who are fallen, to support the weak, to strengthen those faint of heart. He comes to heal broken hearts and bodies and free people held captive. He comes as the Bread of life, King of Glory and Love Incarnate to speak to all hearts that yearn for union with God and with our sisters and brothers.

Christmas gives us the opportunity to reflect upon the struggles of the last year of life and how God has been with us through them. We are encouraged to stay focused on what's important, the long journey of our earthly lives and



God's continued presence on this journey. We can look towards better days, because He was born to earth as the redeemer of hope for a better tomorrow. Christmas is an encouraging reminder to stay focused on JESUS, the reason for the season.

As we celebrate Christmas, we will do so spending time with family and friends and in priceless moments of worship. As we celebrate Christmas, we are reminded of God's great love for us in the birth of Jesus. While we celebrate, let us ensure that we share the story of Jesus' birth with each other. More importantly let this story remind us of how blessed and highly favored we are to be children of God.

I wish for you and your family a blessed Christmas; may the joy and mirth of this holy season fill your life and your home.

Grace and peace,

Rev. Germaine Lovelace

FOR UNTO US A

Child is born

UNTO US A Son IS GIVEN
and His Name shall be called

Wonderful Counselor

THE MIGHTY GOD
the Everlasting Father

Prince of Peace
ISAIAH 9:6

We invite you to search for the following links and share our Facebook page with your friends on Facebook and subscribe to our YouTube channel.

Go to www.YouTube.com
and search for:
**St Mark's Church
Malton (Subscribe)**

Go to www.Facebook.com
and search for :
**StMarksPresbyterian
ChurchMalton (Share)**

St. Mark's Celebrates her Golden Jubilee

These 50 Years of Christian Witness

Theme:

"Celebrating Our past, building towards the future in faith and purpose."



Plans and projections for the St. Mark's Presbyterian Church 50th Anniversary Celebration

Introduction:

The Presbyterian Church in Canada has embellished the historical landscape of Canada by contributing to the nation's fulfillment of education and the development and strengthening of the social fiber for the upliftment and empowerment of Canadians. The St. Mark's Presbyterian Church is proud of this legacy and has kept this heritage alive in a profound way by shaping many lives in Malton and its environs. As our church celebrates 50 glorious years of service to the people of Malton, the mainstay of its activities is the staging of our year of celebration. For the past two years the world has been grappling with the coronavirus pandemic and it is within this mix that we seek to celebrate. In whatever ways we get to celebrate we have faith in God that our Golden Jubilee, St. Mark's 50th year of witness will be a springboard launching us into a bright and prosperous future by God's grace.

It promises to be a year filled with glorious expectations, a year poised for magnificence through worship, celebration, fund-raising, appreciation of our long-standing members, remembering those who are now with the Lord and a re-writing of our journey thus far which will be etched in the annals of history for years to come. Indeed, God's presence with us over these 50 splendid years, have witnessed the metamorphosis of our Church, both physically and spiritually. This is our moment of rejoicing, our season of faith's perfection as such we will embrace this year, with resonance and acclamation, celebrating the theme: **"Celebrating Our past, building towards the future in faith and purpose."**

This proposal provides an overview of the church which includes its achievements and objectives for the year of celebration.

St. Mark's Presbyterian Church – An Overview

The St. Mark's Presbyterian Church is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Canada located at 7366 Darcel Avenue in Malton, Mississauga. We are a family in Christ united under the motto: **"Out of Many Nations we are one family in Christ."** Through worship and witness, we are a church that strives to:

- * Preach the Gospel through the word and our lifestyle so as to extend God's Kingdom
- * Provide opportunities for worship and fellowship
- * Support, encourage, teach and nurture
- * Reach out to the less fortunate

Everyone is able to find a place and a space to utilize their God-given gifts as true stewards. Our church is blessed with an abundance of talented and gifted individuals who will always minister to the hearts and lives of people across the world. In pursuit of this, some of our major activities are streamed via the worldwide web. Our Ministries include: the St. Mark's Young Society, Food Friends, St. Mark's Helpers, Sunday School and Choirs. These Ministries provide members with the opportunity to live out their passion for service in various ways. This may be through worship, or in the expressions of the creative and performing arts, outreach or any other endeavor which may provide that sense of self-worth. There are also many other ways in which people are led to feel that sense of belonging, whether it is through service on the Session, Board of Managers and Committees or just through participating in regular worship services. Come to St. Mark's and right away you will find your niche, and not

only that, your new Church family awaits you!

NB: Some of the plans and projections below are tentative due to the fact that we are currently in the middle of a global pandemic. In whatever way we worship we will carry out celebrating 50 years through worship. The other activities are dependent on what is being allowed and how freely we can move about. We trust God that we will be able to celebrate and carry out God's work even amidst the current situation.

Some of our direct objectives for this 50th year of celebration are:

- * To grow our general membership by at least fifty (50)
- * To increase our mentorship of the youth and encourage them to grow in faith
- * To update the history of our church to capture the essence of our achievements
- * To invite 50 individuals from our church to participate in an outreach project
- * To adopt a church or school in the Caribbean or Africa as our 50th Anniversary Project
- * To make St. Mark's a more visible source of support to the Malton community

St. Mark's Celebrates her Golden Jubilee

These 50 Years of Christian Witness

Theme:

"Celebrating Our past, building towards the future in faith and purpose."

*Plans and projections for the St. Mark's Presbyterian Church
50th Anniversary Celebration*



Celebrating 50 years with Fundraising

Pens and cups sale:	December 2021 - December 2022
Raffle:	Spring - Summer 2022
Concert:	Easter 2022
Portuguese : Supper	June 4, 2022
White Elephant Auction/ Sale:	July 2022
Bus Trip:	August 2022
Caribbean Night:	October 7, 2022

Celebrating 50 years Through Worship

Opening Anniversary Service	January 30 th , 2022	Rev. Bonnie Sutherland
Memorial Service	May 22 nd , 2022	Rev. Harry Bradley
50 TH Anniversary Honouring Service	August 28 th , 2022	Rev. Kathy Brownlee
50 th Anniversary Celebration Service	October 30 th , 2022	Rev. Peter Bush



50th Anniversary Memorabilia

- * Compilation of the Historical journey of St Mark's
- * Creation of a new photo directory of St. Mark's Church family
- * Creation of St. Mark's Memorial Board for all our members who have passed on
- * Interview with St. Mark's members
- 50th Anniversary pins

Celebrating 50 years through fellowship and Service

50 th Anniversary Banquet:	September 2022
50 th Anniversary Picnic:	August 6, 2022
Sunday School Treat:	May 21, 2022
Back to School Fair:	August 20, 2022

ST. MARK'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Well Done, Wilf! A Good and Faithful Servant



At the end of this year, we will bid a hearty farewell to the venerable Wilfred "Wilf" Hallet as Treasurer of St. Mark's. This marks the end of 26 years of dedicated and meritorious service to the St. Mark's congregation, 15 of which he spent as Treasurer. Wilf as we affectionately call him at St. Mark's, his wife Donna and his daughter Kim have been long standing members of St. Mark's and have given their time, talent, and gifts to our church family unstintingly. Their presence and service at St. Mark's have added to the loving and welcoming presence of our church which continues to reach out to families within Malton and beyond.



Wilf began serving St. Mark's in 1995 auditing the church's books along with Doug Thomas. In 1998 he became a member of the Board of Managers and very shortly after in the year 2000 he became part of the team that counted and recorded the offering and collections after worship and other events. In 2005 our congregation needed a new treasurer as the then treasurer Fred Duggleby moved away from Malton. With a sense of purpose and a great human spirit Wilf stepped up and offered himself for service in this area of our church, this after being Assistant Treasurer since 2004. Right away he exemplified and applied himself with dignity. From the onset he managed the financial affairs of St. Mark's capably, with profound competence and with integrity. The task of Treasurer is never an easy one and is also one that requires a level of commitment that is beyond ordinary. It also requires that one goes beyond the call of duty to ensure that our congregation remains financially compliant and viable as we engage with different economic changes from year to year. All in all, the job as Treasurer is not an easy one and one that requires true dedication and a sense of call.

For 16 years Wilf, gave many hours, his accounting skills, and personal resources to this task and he did so while responding to the many changes that came along the way. His watchfulness kept St. Mark's afloat not only financially but also helped us live up to the fiscal responsibilities and expectations set by the Government, the Presbytery, and the Presbyterian Church in Canada. Over the years Wilf has ensured that the financial obligations of St. Mark's were met in a timely manner and this through several trips from his home to St. Mark's weekly. The yearly financial statements were always ready in time for the Annual General Meetings. There were the monthly and quarterly updates that were always requested, and Wilf would never fall short. His financial prudence and accountability were of very high standards and Wilf's will be a hard act to follow.

As a congregation we have been tremendously blessed to have Wilf serve us as Treasurer and we take this opportunity to say a BIG THANK YOU for his work among us. We extend sincere thanks to Wilf for the dedicated and excellent way he led and maintained the treasury at St. Mark's over the years. We pray God's richest blessings on Wilf and his family as they continue to give themselves to St. Mark's in different ways. Thank You Wilf.



ST. MARK'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

God's Family of Faith Worshiping and Witnessing Together

*Let the Church be the Church, Let the People rejoice.
Oh, we've settled the question, We've made our choice.
Let the anthems ring out, Songs of victory swell
For the Church triumphant is alive and well.*



DIGITAL MEDIA FOR MINISTRY

When the global pandemic was declared in March 2020 little did we know that the life of the church would be changed in such a drastic way. The church has always grappled with change and some changes have impacted us negatively and other positively. Whatever way we look at it, the changes in the way the church carries out its worship and witness has had a dramatic impact on every member of our church. That being said; we have found ways to continue to share the Gospel of redeeming grace and lives have continued to be impacted through the ministry of our church.

Since March 2020 we have been worshipping online through YouTube and Zoom and although at times this has been a challenge it has given us a rewarding feeling for the most part. The rewarding feeling comes when we see the ways we have been able to connect as a church family despite the successive lockdowns and stay at home orders. The reward comes as we have sat down and folded our hands in resignation but have used the technological means available to worship and fellowship and keep the work of the church alive. God has been so good to us and have helped us not only stay together but has provided for our church so that we could acquire the tools needed to carry worship online and in person all at once.

When places of worship were allowed to reopen in September 2020, we adopted a hybrid model of worship. At that time a significant portion of our members were not yet ready to leave their homes. Each Sunday we had about 30 members in person at church and another 40 or so person online. It became apparent to us that this new paradigm for the church was here to stay so we began making plans to acquire the equipment needed to help us carry worship to people gathering in person as well as online. Through loving financial donations from our church family, we were able to acquire equipment to outfit our sanctuary so we can worship freely online as well as in person. We got quotations from 5 companies and in the end chose Century Audio Visual who gave us a reasonable quote and came well recommended by other churches. The wait was long for this work to be done as a worldwide shortage of key technological

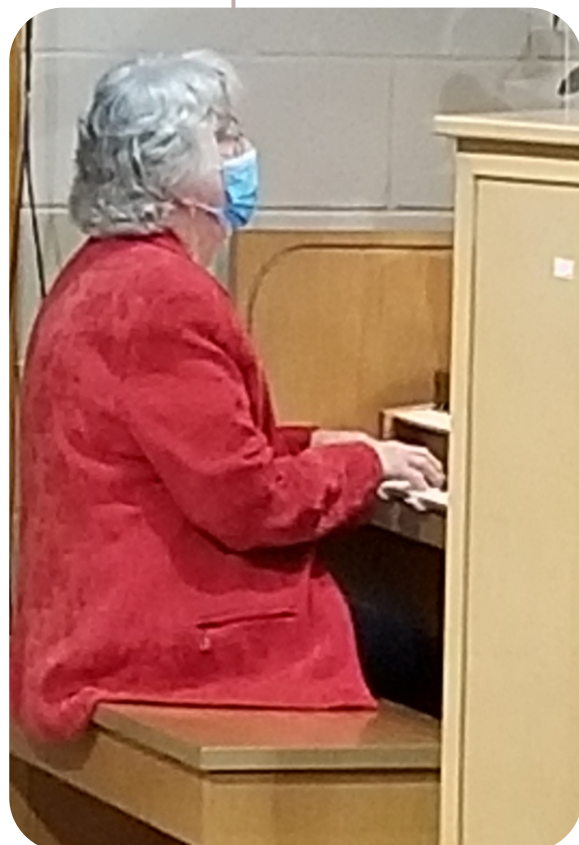
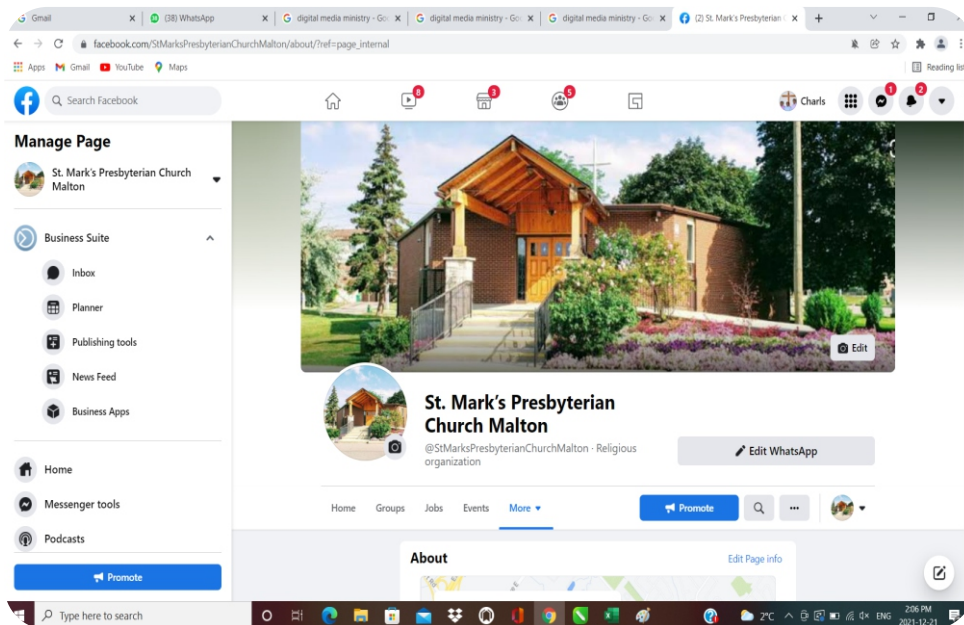


software caused a delay of almost 3 months for the work to begin.

On Wednesday, November 17th a team from Century Audio Visual began the final installation of technological equipment that will help us effectively offer a hybrid form of worship to our church family. The new pieces include a new sound system comprising of a state-of-the-art sound rack, a new computerized mixing board, new choir and pulpit microphones and a video switcher for live streaming. The new setup also included a new mounted camera that can be controlled virtually and a high-definition television screen that will accompany the already installed projection system. The entire project from cabling to installation took three days to complete. As part of this work, we also were blessed to have some new electrical upgrades added to our sanctuary. This part of the work was donated by Ridgewood Electric owned and operated by Iain MacFarlane whose parents were long standing members of St. Mark's and who himself grew up at St. Mark's as a youth.

I want to extend sincere thanks to you all for the prayerful support of this project. I also want to thank those of you who donated financially toward these much-needed upgrades to our sanctuary. Thank you to the Technology committee and especially to Lionel Jodha who was there every day to oversee this final phase of the project; to Isaac Asumadu Sakyi who oversaw the first phase of installing the PowerPoint technology and Sam Alfred who gave physical and prayerful support as well. Thank you to Century Audio Visual who have committed to helping us learn how to properly use this new system as we try our best to get it functional for worship on a weekly basis. We give God thanks for all the possibilities that the ministry of our church hold.

Reaching Malton for Christ





Church YouTube Channel

All our services are available on YouTube kindly share it with your friends and subscribe to our YouTube channel. God Bless you.





SIGN IN


St Mark's Church Malton

90 subscribers

SUBSCRIBE

HOME

VIDEOS

PLAYLISTS

CHANNELS

ABOUT



Uploads ▶ PLAY ALL



Worship on the 4th Sunday of Advent

60 views • Streamed 2 days ago



Worship on the 3rd Sunday of Advent

72 views • Streamed 9 days ago



Worship & Communion on the 2nd Sunday of Advent

68 views • Streamed 2 weeks ago



Worship on the 1st Sunday of Advent

73 views • Streamed 3 weeks ago



Worship on Reign of Christ Sunday

103 views • Streamed 1 month ago



The Blessing of Children and Remembrance Worship...

85 views • Streamed 1 month ago



Worship and Celebration of the Lord's Supper

76 views • Streamed 1 month ago



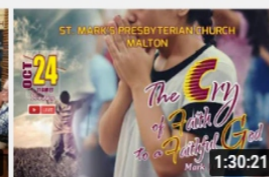
49th Anniversary Worship Service

91 views • Streamed 1 month ago



Worship on the 22nd Sunday After Pentecost

63 views • Streamed 1 month ago



Worship on the 21st Sunday After Pentecost

89 views • Streamed 2 months ago



49th Anniversary Worship Service

91 views • Streamed 1 month ago



Worship on the 22nd Sunday After Pentecost

63 views • Streamed 1 month ago



Worship on the 21st Sunday After Pentecost

89 views • Streamed 2 months ago



Thanksgiving Worship Service

85 views • Streamed 2 months ago



Worship on World Communion Sunday

64 views • Streamed 2 months ago



Being the hands and feet of Jesus
St. Mark's Helpers Christmas Hampers

As we answer the call to follow Jesus, we are in a great way giving ourselves for service and making ourselves available to be use by God in the places of need around us. We all remember Jesus's famous discussion with his Disciples in Matthew 25:35-40

³⁵ For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. ³⁷ "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?' ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' ⁴⁰ "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

As church families and faith communities rise to the occasions of need in their communities, they are challenged by this conversation in Matthew's gospel. This was our challenge over a year ago when we started to feed the hungry and reach out to those in need through our unnamed Ministry which later became St. Mark's Helpers. In the summer of 2020, we began receiving calls from individuals who were finding it hard to get by as the food banks they depended on intermittently struggled to keep afloat due to the sudden changes brought on by the pandemic. Through the generosity of our church family and a large food donation from Burnbrae Farms we were able to help over 20 families since the summer of 2020.

At the end of last year, we distributed Christmas hampers to some families here in Malton. These



hampers included items for Christmas dinner and other items of food and toiletries which were a great help to families in their time of need. A large number of the families we helped last year are still being helped on a monthly basis as the reports have shown that more and more people are turning to food banks for support. With the price of food and other grocery items skyrocketing many families have had to depend on the generosity of food banks and aid agencies in order to survive on a monthly basis.

The St. Mark's church family hears Matthew 25:35-40 clearly and also have heard Matthew 10:8, "freely you have received so freely give." Our entire church family has heard these calls of the gospel as each month different individuals rise to the occasion and donate items of food, clothes or gift cards to help other families who are struggling.

This year we are taking it a step further as we continue to reach out to others in our community and its environs. St. Mark's Helpers has delivered Christmas Hampers to 7 families and individuals in our community. The hampers include, non-perishable food items, gift cards, items of clothing, personal effects like purses, toiletries and toys for the families who have children. These families will be able to spend Christmas without worrying where their meals will come from. They will also experience what Jesus describes in Matthew 25 and their hope for the future will be rekindled.

This would not have been possible without your kindness and loving response to the call of Jesus to be His hands and feet in the world. This is part of what makes our church family special. From the over \$ 400 in gift cards to the numerous drop offs of groceries, toiletries, and clothing, you have been a tremendous blessing.



ST. MARK'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Being the hands and feet of Jesus **St. Mark's Helpers Christmas Hampers**



I want to extend sincere thanks to Tara Kallwitz who has given herself to the Lord and has prayerfully dedicated herself to this ministry of our church. Tara has spent countless hours sorting the food as they come in and also designing and planning how the hampers should be packaged and delivered. I want to also thank the members of her team who she called on for help, Mrs. Ivy Jones, Tonya Rice and Murna Creighton. Finally, We extend thanks to all who have given these items to St. Mark's Helpers so we could bless others. You have all, been angels of love and mercy. The seven families are eternally grateful for you. God bless you all.

Submitted on behalf of St. Mark's Helpers.
Rev. Germaine Lovelace.

God's People Serving with Excellence and Dedication

The work of our church continues to touch the hearts and lives of individuals in the Malton community and beyond. This would not have been possible without the dedication of the men, women and youth who have given themselves to the work of our church. I list the areas and individuals below and thank God for their work in our church throughout this year.

Worship:

Jean Heathcote, Gary Blake, Ashitha and Bryan Pradeepson, Delle Abenojar, Beulah Francis, Ivy and Aleyah Jones, Valerie Kallwitz, Valerie Laylor, Pam Royer, Sheba, and Anthony Sampras, Velda Walkes, Abigael and Lucy Mwara, Larry Hosein, Secoya Lovelace and Justin Thomas

Outreach:

Tara Kallwitz, Ivy Jones, Murna Creighton

Finance and Management:

Wilf Hallet, Shirley Sumere, Sam Alfred, Isaac Asumadu Sakyi, Gita Singh, and Lionel Jodha

Sanctuary beautification and aesthetics:

Murna Creighton, Velda Walkes, Angela Ramsuchit and her daughter Nadia, Coleen and Audrey Gordon, Sam Alfred.

Technology:

Bryan Pradeepson, Lionel Jodha, Charles Martin, Sid and Abhijit Ghosh, Marsha Laylor, Marsha and Secoya Lovelace

Reopening and Leadership:

Ernest Birbalsingh, Valerie Kallwitz, Tara Kallwitz, Ivy Jones, Lucy and Abigael Mwara, Sheba Sampras, Murna Creighton, Sam Alfred and members of Session and the Board of Management.

Church Life: ALL MEMBERS OF ST. MARK'S CHURCH FAMILY.

Thank you, thank you, thank you and God bless you richly!